

Snapshots & Thoughtshots



Snapshots are sentences that “SHOW, NOT TELL.”

A snapshot sentence can be in the form of a simile or metaphor, or can focus on a particular sensory “binocular” detail. It is a sentence that creates a frozen image in your readers’ minds.



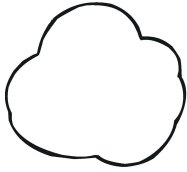
Thoughtshots are sentences that “TELL, NOT SHOW.”

A thoughtshot sentence brings your readers inside a person’s head (a character, the author, or even a personified object) to share a unique perspective, thought or feeling about a situation. It is a sentence that can be in the form of a statement or a question about the situation.

***Both are important to creating meaning
in your descriptive writing.***

For Example: “A Bad Day”

- **Snapshot**: My backpack was a disaster. Black ink from an exploded pen bloomed across the pages of my English journal and a smashed peanut butter sandwich had oozed onto my science project, leaving an oily smudge across the periodic table of elements.
- **Thoughtshot**: How could a school day that was only three minutes old already be going so wrong?



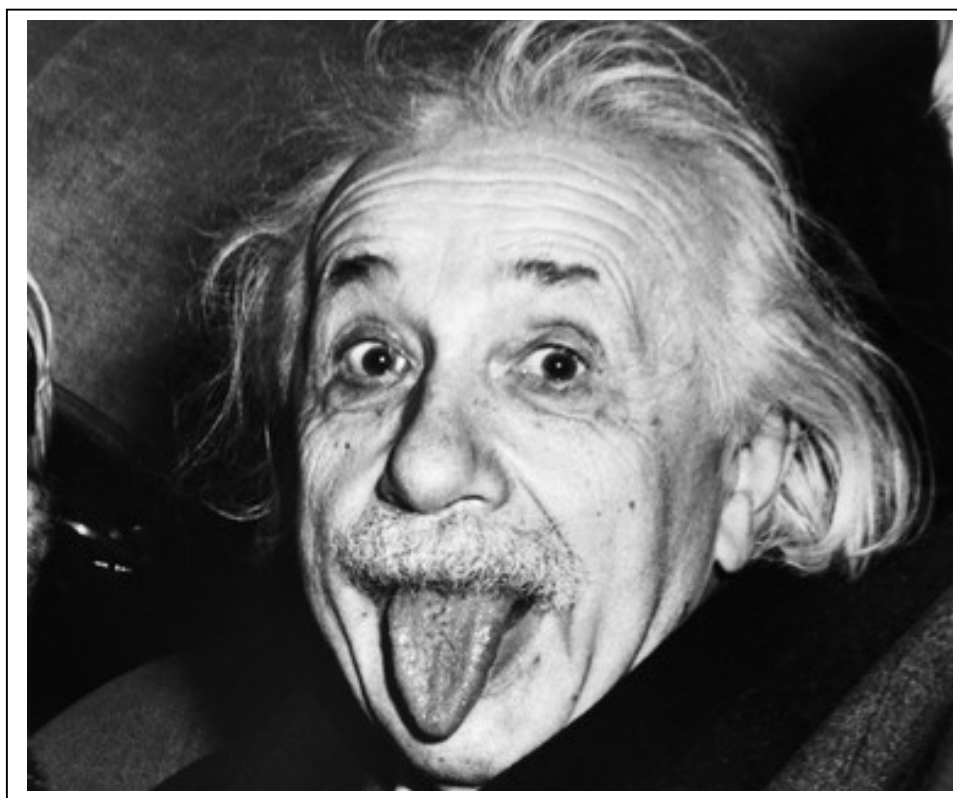
Thoughtshot sentence:



Snapshot sentence:



Thoughtshot sentence:



Snapshot sentence:



Thoughtshot sentence:



Snapshot sentence:



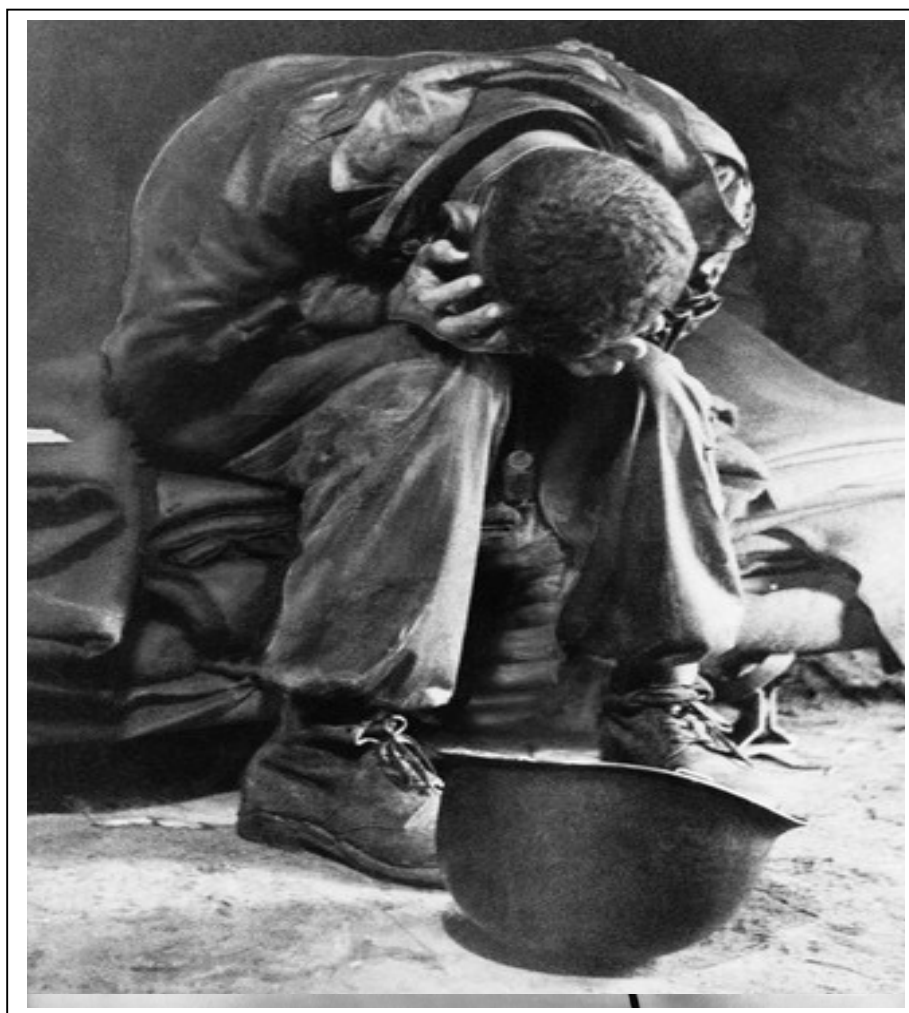
Thoughtshot sentence:



Snapshot sentence:



Thoughtshot sentence:



Snapshot sentence:
